United Nations S/2000/1056

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 November 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 28 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 October 2000 from Mr. Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-fly zones. During the period from 16 to 23 October 2000, these aircraft carried out 346 aggressive sorties, 176 of them from Saudi Arabia, 94 from Kuwait and 76 from Turkey.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs affirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, for which he holds the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the States which provide logistic support for such aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, internationally responsible, and urges you to perform the duties assigned to you pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations with a view to ending this aggression and ensuring that it is not resumed.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-72280 (E) 021100 021100

Annex

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. In the period from 16 to 23 October 2000, these aircraft carried out 346 sorties, 176 of them from Saudi Arabia, 94 from Kuwait and 76 from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 76 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1055 hours on 17 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1320 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1115 hours on 18 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Zakho and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1100 hours on 19 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Irbil, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dukan, Baibo, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1050 hours on 23 October 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Mosul, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 270 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1405 hours on 16 October 2000 United States and British F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Salman, Samawah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at

Sukkar, Lasaf, Ushbayjah, Basra, Amarah and Qal'at Salih areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2150 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1400 hours on 17 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 66 missions, 44 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Afak, Samawah, Amarah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Artawi, Muqr al-Na'am, Ushbayjah, Nukhayb South, Salman and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2315 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1425 hours on 18 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Jalibah, Qal'at Salih, Lasaf, Najaf, Suq al-Shuyukh and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1550 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1150 hours on 19 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Ushbayjah, Najaf, Lasaf, Shatrah, Nukhayb, Basra, Qal'at Salih and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0910 hours on 20 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 38 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Busayyah, Ushbayjah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Rifa'i, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Hashimiyah, K-160, Diwaniyah and Najaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1150 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1025 hours on 21 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 38 missions, 20 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Amarah, Samawah, Shinafiyah,

Diwaniyah, Basra and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1340 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1520 hours on 22 October 2000 United States and British F-14, and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out four missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and by an E-2C command and control aircraft. They overflew the 'Ar'ar, Rutbah, Walid, Tab'an and Mardid areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1720 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1017 hours on 23 October 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 48 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS control and command aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 24 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Rutbah South-East, Mashkhab, Salman, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Qal'at Salih, Qal'at Sukkar, Amarah, Samawah, Shinafiyah, Taqtaqanah, Artawi, Nukhayb, Basra, Qurnah, S-160 and Najaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1245 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-fly zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-fly zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision, and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against civilian targets and Iraqi civilian installations, urges you to perform your assigned duties with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the Governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt and desist from any resumption of this aggression.

(*Signed*) Mohammad Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 26 Rajab A.H. 1421
(26 October A.D. 2000)